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February 20, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 2100.0082  
CUSTOMER NO. 22,852



New U.S. Patent Application  
Title: LIFTING SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR USE  
WITH A HITCH MECHANISM  
Inventors: Timothy M. Johns et al.

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-referenced patent application.

1. Application - 47 pages, including title page and 1 page abstract, with 5 independent claims and 52 claims total.
2. Drawings - 11 sheets of formal drawings (FIGS. 1 through 11).
3. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

Basic Application Filing Fee					\$770	\$ 770.00
	Number of Claims		Basic	Extra Claims		
Total Claims	52	-	20	32	x \$18	576.00
Independent Claims	5	-	3	2	x \$86	172.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim(s)					+\$290	0.00
Subtotal						\$ 1518.00
Reduction by 1/2 if small entity						- 0.00
TOTAL APPLICATION FILING FEE						\$ 1518.00

4. A check for \$1518.00 is enclosed. The fee includes:

\$770.00 filing fee; and  
\$748.00 additional claims fee.

Please address all correspondence with respect to this application to:

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,  
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.  
1300 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3315

This application will be completed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) upon receiving a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application.

Please accord this application an application number and filing date.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due and any other fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: Stephanie S. Conis Gauthier  
Stephanie S. Conis Gauthier  
Reg. No. 40,569

SCG/mm  
Enclosures